



**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Vermont/New Hampshire**

**USDA Rural Development Invites Applications
for
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants**

On March 28, 2005 the USDA Rural Development Business Programs published a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) to implement the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program for FY 2005. The NOFA announced the availability of up to \$22.8 million in competitive grant funds for FY 2005 to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Of the \$22.8 million, \$11.4 million is immediately available for grants. The other \$11.4 million will be set aside through August 31, 2005 for guaranteed loans. The NOFA does not provide for a guaranteed loan program. USDA plans to administer the guaranteed loan set aside funds under a final rule anticipated for publication in the Federal Register later this fiscal year ending 9/30/05. Any guaranteed loan funds not used by August 31, 2005 will revert to the grant program under the NOFA.

Renewable energy grant applications must be for a minimum of \$2,500 and a maximum of \$500,000. Energy efficiency grant applications may range from \$2,500 to \$250,000. The grant request may not exceed 25% of eligible project costs, and all grant applicants must demonstrate financial need. Applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office postmarked no later than June 27, 2005. Detailed information about application and program requirements is available online at www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill. If you have questions or intend to apply please contact Lyn Millhiser, Business Programs Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Third Floor City Center, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 at 802-828-6069 or lyn.milhiser@vt.usda.gov.

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Committed to the future of rural communities

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